



HJ0048

LRB099 11319 KTG 31950 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Senior members of Congress are seeking major
3 changes to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) when
4 the program's funding expires in September 2015; and

5 WHEREAS, Their proposal, labeled a "discussion draft" for
6 legislation, is being circulated by Senator Orrin Hatch of
7 Utah, chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance;
8 Representative Fred Upton of Michigan, chairman of the House
9 Energy and Commerce Committee; and Representative Joe Pitts of
10 Pennsylvania, chairman of the Subcommittee on Health; and

11 WHEREAS, The legislative proposal would reduce federal
12 financing of CHIP for families with incomes above 250% of the
13 federal poverty level and eliminate federal help for those with
14 incomes above 300% of the federal poverty level; and

15 WHEREAS, The legislative proposal would also eliminate an
16 increase in the federal matching rate for CHIP that is
17 scheduled to go into effect in 2016 in all states; and

18 WHEREAS, The legislative proposal could deprive more than a
19 million children of insurance or force their families to pay
20 higher out-of-pocket costs for their coverage; and

1 WHEREAS, The legislative proposal threatens to undermine
2 the progress made in reducing the number of uninsured children,
3 gains that came from enrolling more children in Medicaid and in
4 CHIP, which covers children whose families earn too much to
5 qualify for Medicaid; and

6 WHEREAS, The legislative proposal would eliminate the
7 Affordable Care Act's requirement that states keep the
8 family-income eligibility levels stable until 2019; and

9 WHEREAS, The legislative proposal could make it more
10 difficult for families to prove their eligibility; and

11 WHEREAS, Faced with a loss of federal funds for CHIP, as
12 suggested in the legislative proposal, many states would
13 probably shrink their CHIP programs and reduce their own
14 financial contributions; and

15 WHEREAS, The legislative proposal would also eliminate a
16 requirement that states enroll children who are just above the
17 poverty line in Medicaid; and enable states to move them from
18 Medicaid back to CHIP, where enrollments are often limited by
19 budget caps; and

20 WHEREAS, The legislative proposal would allow states to
21 impose a 12-month waiting period (up from the current 90 days)

1 before children who lose coverage from a parent's insurance
2 plan can be enrolled in CHIP; and

3 WHEREAS, By contrast, bills introduced in the U.S. House of
4 Representatives and U.S. Senate would extend federal CHIP
5 financing for the next 4 years and essentially continue the
6 program along current lines; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
8 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
9 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge all members of the
10 Illinois congressional delegation to support legislation which
11 would extend federal financing for the Children's Health
12 Insurance Program for the next 4 years and continue the program
13 along current lines and to oppose legislation which would
14 restrict children's access to health care; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
16 delivered to the Governor, the members of the Illinois
17 congressional delegation, and President Barack Obama.